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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE FOR FOOD AND FEED CONSERVATION

Grain Conservation Report Made by Production and Marketing Administration at Meeting of Advisory Committee for Farm Grain Conservation, Washington, D. C., May 27, 1948

WHEAT FOOD CONSUMPTION

The BAE says that civilian consumption of wheat food products has been running lower in 1947-48 than in recent years. The total use of wheat for civilian food in 1947-48 is now estimated at about 490 million bushels, as contrasted with early-season estimates of 510 million bushels. Total use of 494 million bushels is reported for 1946-47.

A much greater reduction from earlier years is shown in the consumption of wheat flour per capita of the population. The per capita consumption of flour (including white, whole wheat, and Semolina flour) has been running at the rate of about 145 pounds in 1947-48, compared to 153.4 pounds in calendar 1946, 160.7 pounds in 1945, 162.2 pounds in 1944, and 153.1 pounds average for 1935-39.

The use of wheat for livestock feeding also has been considerably smaller than early season estimates, notwithstanding a sharp reduction in the 1947-48 supply of feed grains. It is estimated now that about 200 million bushels of wheat will be used from the 1947 crop, as contrasted with early season estimates of 250 million bushels or more.

The reductions in the use of wheat for food and feed have helped to make possible the exportation of a high record quantity of wheat and flour this season, and also to increase our domestic carryover of wheat into the 1948-49 season. The United States carryover of wheat as of July 1 will be about 175 million bushels, as compared with only 84 million bushels on that date last year.

LIVESTOCK SITUATION

Cattle: No change of consequence in the overall picture has taken place since the last report was made. Cattle on feed in the Corn Belt January 1, 1948 were down 19 percent as compared with the same date last year, and by April 1 this year there were 25 percent fewer cattle on feed in this area.

For this reason, and despite the fact that cattle have been marketed at somewhat heavier weights on the average, there has been considerably less use of grain for cattle feeding purposes this year than a year ago.

Hogs: Grain conservation efforts of hog producers, according to Livestock Branch officials, have been largely offset by the packinghouse workers' strike of more than 10 weeks duration. During this period

farmers, in some instances at least, have had to hold hogs on the farm that were about ready for market when the strike began. This has tended to use up feed grain stocks that otherwise could have been saved. On the other hand, it now appears that there is more grain on farms than has been indicated previously, at least from the viewpoint of feed value and possibly from that of quantity. The withholding of hogs during the strike made this evident. Farmers had enough feed grain on hand to carry the hogs that they held back through the strike period and there has been no real rush of hogs to market since the strike ended, nor does it appear that hog producers have run out of feed.

The attached table shows volume and the weights at which beef cattle, calves, and hogs have been marketed during the period of the feed grain emergency, with comparisons for similar months and weeks last year.

POULTRY SITUATION

In general, the poultry industry has carried its task of grain conservation beyond the effort agreed to late last fall. This is indicated principally in the cutback of hatchery output, in the prospect that fewer chickens will be raised on farms, and that growers will produce fewer turkeys than they did last year.

Commercial hatcheries have reduced output during the first four months of this year by 13 percent as compared with the same period a year ago. The industry goal for the period February-June called for a 7-percent reduction.

The reduced output indicated will affect the number of chickens being raised on farms which, in turn, will mean a lower-than-expected production of eggs beginning next fall.

Output of turkey poults by commercial hatcheries this year is down by about 20 percent as compared with a 12-percent cut promised by industry. According to BAE, turkey growers are producing about 1/5 fewer turkeys this year than they did last year, although the latest midmonth hatchery report points out that current demand for turkey poults is greater than the hatcheries can supply.

The culling of laying flocks has not been accomplished to the full extent suggested by the official goal but this is offset by smaller laying flock replacements. Broiler production has picked up materially in the past several weeks judging by the increased number of chick placements in the major broiler areas. Excessive production in these areas, however, will probably be limited by the smaller hatchery output; and the extra meat that will be provided will be needed in the summer months.

DAIRY FEED CONSERVATION

The amount of feed grain fed per cow which was saved during the second quarter of 1948 will probably be much greater than the amount saved during the first quarter of 1948. It is estimated that this saving may be as high as 500,000 short tons. In the first quarter the amount saved was about 139,000 short tons. Generally good condition of pastures appears to account heavily for the saving anticipated in the second quarter.

The pounds of grain, mill feed, and concentrates fed per milk cow was about 9 percent lower on April 1, 1948 than on the same date in 1947, as compared with a 6 percent reduction between the first quarter of 1948 and the first quarter of 1947. There has also been a further reduction in cow numbers so that in 1948 there will probably be at least 2 percent fewer milk cows on farms than the average for 1947.

861
JUL 7 1948

SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL
INSPECTION

	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	SHEEP & LAMBS							
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:								
	:	CATTLE	:	CALVES	:	HOGS	:	:								
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:								
	:	1948	:	1947	:	1948	:	1947	:	1948	:	1947				
		(Thousand Head)														
January		1312		1403		586		591		5223		5844		1347		1542
February		977		1143		511		521		3746		3897		1209		1271
March		987		1228		566		644		3574		3406		1175		1237
Total - January-March		3276		3774		1663		1756		12543		13147		3731		4050
		(Percent)														
1948 as % of 1947		87				95				95				92		
		(Thousand Head)														
April		899		1203		550		678		3343		3618		1045		1322
Week Ended:																
May 8		246		293		155		141		916		880		289		330
15		222		287		133		143		832		852		268		302
22		226		283		132		149		878		850		277		296
Total - April-May		1593		2066		970		1111		5969		6200		1879		2250
		(Percent)														
1948 as % of 1947		77				87				96				84		

AVERAGE LIVE WEIGHTS

	CATTLE		:	HOGS		:	BARROWS AND GILTS AT 7 MARKETS	
	1948	1947	:	1948	1947	:	1948	1947
	(Lbs.)			(Lbs.)			(Lbs.)	
January	940	944		254	255		250	248
February	957	951		255	252		257	253
March	966	948		250	253		<u>1</u> /259	261
April	<u>2</u> /971	946		<u>2</u> /245	254		<u>1</u> /253	259
Weed Ended:								
May 8	957	943		246	260		257	264
15	958	936		246	262		<u>3</u> /253	267
22		926			264		259	264

1/ Partly six markets.

2/ Preliminary estimate based on weekly averages.

3/ Six markets

